

REMARKS

In the Office Action the Examiner noted that claims 1-29 are pending in the application. The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 11-12, 14-20, 22, and 25-29, and objected to claims 5-10, 13, 21, 23, and 24. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 28 have been amended, and new claims 30-31 have been added. No new matter has been presented. Thus, claims 1-31 are pending in the application. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below, and reconsideration of all rejected claims is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claim 25

While the Examiner noted in the Office Action Summary that claim 25 was rejected, there is no reason supplied in the Office Action to explain the rejection of claim 25. The claim is not noted as rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 or §103, and is likewise not addressed in the section regarding allowable subject matter.

Therefore, as the Examiner has not supplied a reason for the rejection of claim 25, nor identified the type of rejection, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 25, if the claim is indeed rejected.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §102

In item 2 on pages 2-4 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 11, 14-15, 18-20, and 26-29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,851,294, issued to Young et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Young"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections of these claims.

Claim 1 of the present application, as amended, recites "a plurality of adapters with gas nozzles to respectively connect to at least one of the gas distribution channels," wherein "each of the adapters are selectively connectable to more than one of the gas distribution channels while connected to the gas supplying ring." The Applicants respectfully submit that Young does not disclose at least these features of claim 1.

The Examiner stated that Young discloses a gas supplying apparatus with a plurality of gas supplying channels 55 and gas distribution channels 56, and adapters 62 with gas nozzles 34 connecting to the gas distribution channels 56. However, each of the adapters 62 of Young is only able to be connected to a single gas distribution channel 56, and therefore is only able to

receive gas from a single gas supplying channel 55. In other words, each adapter 62 of Young is limited to a single gas supplying channel 55, and different gas supplying channels 55, and therefore different gases, are not able to be selectively supplied to the adapters 62. This is in direct contrast to claim 1 of the present application, which recites adapters that "are selectively connectable to more than one of the gas distribution channels while connected to the gas supplying ring."

Therefore, Young does not disclose at least the feature wherein "each of the adapters are selectively connectable to more than one of the gas distribution channels while connected to the gas supplying ring." Accordingly, Young does not disclose every element of the Applicants' claim 1. In order for a reference to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach each and every element of the claim (MPEP §2131). Therefore, since Young does not disclose the features recited in independent claim 1, as stated above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Young, and withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection is earnestly and respectfully solicited.

Claims 2-3, 11, 14-15, 18-20, and 26-27 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of that claim plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by Young. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-3, 11, 14-15, 18-20, and 26-27 also patentably distinguish over Young.

Claim 28 of the present application, as amended, recites "adapters detachably connected to the gas supplying ring so as to be selectively connectable to more than one of the gas distribution channels." As discussed above in regard to claim 1 of the present application, Young does not disclose at least these features of claim 28. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 28 also patentably distinguishes over Young.

Claim 29 of the present application recites gas nozzles connecting to the first gas distribution channel and the second gas distribution channel, and "blocking one of the first gas distribution channel and the second gas distribution channel." As discussed above in regard to claim 1 of the present application, Young does not disclose connecting a gas nozzle to more than one distribution channel, and further does not disclose blocking one of the gas distribution channels. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 29 also patentably distinguishes over the Young.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §103

In item 5 on page 5 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 4 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Young as applied to claims 1 and 2, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,197,683, issued to Kang et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Kang"). In item 6 on page 5 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 12 and 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Young in view of Kang as applied to claim 4. The Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections of these claims.

As discussed in the previous section of this Amendment, claim 1 of the present application patentably distinguishes over Young. Further, the Kang apparently discloses a chemical vapor deposition apparatus having valves for different types of gases, and therefore does not cure the deficiencies of Young in regard to claim 1. As claims 4, 12, 16-17, and 22 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of that claim plus additional features not taught or suggested by the cited references, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4, 12, 16-17, and 22 also patentably distinguish over the cited references.

Allowable Subject Matter

In item 7 on page 6 of the Office Action the Examiner objected to claims 5-10, 13, 21, and 23-24 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As discussed in the previous sections of this Amendment, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the cited references. Further, claims 5-10, 13, 21, and 23-24 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of that claim plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by the cited references. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 5-10, 13, 21, and 23-24 also patentably distinguish over the cited references.

New Claims 30-31

New claim 30 is directed to the subject matter of claim 5, which was objected to by the Examiner, as well as features included in claim 1 before the present Amendment. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 30 patentably distinguishes over the cited references.

New claim 31 is directed to a gas supplying apparatus "wherein at least one of the adapters is selectively connectable to more than one of the gas distribution channels while connected to the gas supplying ring." Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 31 also patentably distinguishes over the cited references.

Summary

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1 and 28 have been amended, and new claims 30-31 have been added. No new matter has been presented. Thus, claims 1-31 are pending and under consideration.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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